What is claimed is:

1. An image scanning lens comprising, in order from the object side with no intervening lens element:

    a first lens component having positive refractive power and a meniscus shape with its convex surface on the object side and including a first lens element having positive refractive power and a meniscus shape with its convex surface on the object side;

    a second lens component having a biconcave shape and including a second lens element having a biconcave shape;

    a third lens component having a biconvex shape and including a third lens element having a biconvex shape;

    a fourth lens component having negative refractive power and a concave surface on the object side and including a fourth lens element having negative refractive power and a concave surface on the object side;

    wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

$$\theta_{gd} > -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot v_d + 1.366 \text{ for said first lens element,}$$

$$\theta_{gd} < -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot v_d + 1.364 \text{ for at least one of said second lens element and said}$$
        fourth lens element,

where

    v_d is the Abbe number at the d-line (587.56 nm) of the lens material of the lens element being considered, and

$$\theta_{gd} = (N_g - N_d) / (N_F - N_C)$$

    where

    N_g is the refractive index at the g-line ($\lambda = 435.83$ nm) of the lens material of the lens element being considered,

    N_d is the refractive index at the d-line ($\lambda = 587.56$ nm) of the lens material of the lens element being considered,

    N_F is the refractive index at the F-line ($\lambda = 486.13$ nm) of the lens material of the lens element being considered, and

28   N_C is the refractive index at the C-line ($\lambda = 656.27$ nm) of the lens material of the
29   lens element being considered.

1   2. The image scanning lens of claim 1, wherein each of said first lens component, said second
2   lens component, said third lens component, and said fourth lens component is formed of a single
3   lens element.

1   3. The image scanning lens of claim 1, wherein the image scanning lens is formed of only four
2   lens components.

1   4. The image scanning lens of claim 3, wherein each of said first lens component, said second
2   lens component, said third lens component, and said fourth lens component is formed of a single
3   lens element.

1   5. The image scanning lens of claim 1, wherein said fourth lens element is a biconcave lens
2   element and the second lens element is made of a material that satisfies the condition
3        $\theta_{gd} < -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \nu_d + 1.364$.

1   6. The image scanning lens of claim 5, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:
2                $0.45 < f1 \, / \, f < 0.66$
3                $0.36 < |\, f2\, | \, / \, f < 0.40$
4                $0.31 < |\, f4\, | \, / \, f < 0.52$
5   where
6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,
7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,
8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and
9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   7. The image scanning lens of claim 2, wherein said fourth lens element is a biconcave lens
2   element and the second lens element is made of a material that satisfies the condition
3        $\theta_{gd} < -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \nu_d + 1.364$.

1   8. The image scanning lens of claim 7, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2             $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.66$

3             $0.36 < |\, f2\, | / f < 0.40$

4             $0.31 < |\, f4\, | / f < 0.52$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   9. The image scanning lens of claim 3, wherein said fourth lens element is a biconcave lens

2   element and the second lens element is made of a material that satisfies the condition

3    $\theta_{gd} < -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot v_d + 1.364$.

1   10. The image scanning lens of claim 9, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2             $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.66$

3             $0.36 < |\, f2\, | / f < 0.40$

4             $0.31 < |\, f4\, | / f < 0.52$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   11. The image scanning lens of claim 4, wherein said fourth lens element is a biconcave lens

2   element and the second lens element is made of a material that satisfies the condition

3    $\theta_{gd} < -2.083 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot v_d + 1.364$.

1   12. The image scanning lens of claim 11, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2             $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.66$

3         $0.36 < |f2| / f < 0.40$

4         $0.31 < |f4| / f < 0.52$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   13. The image scanning lens of claim 1, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2         $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.98$

3         $0.34 < |f2| / f < 0.40$

4         $0.31 < |f4| / f < 0.56$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   14. The image scanning lens of claim 2, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2         $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.98$

3         $0.34 < |f2| / f < 0.40$

4         $0.31 < |f4| / f < 0.56$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   15. The image scanning lens of claim 3, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2         $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.98$

3         $0.34 < |f2| / f < 0.40$

4           $0.31 < |\,f4\,| / f < 0.56$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   16. The image scanning lens of claim 4, wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

2          $0.45 < f1 / f < 0.98$

3          $0.34 < |\,f2\,| / f < 0.40$

4          $0.31 < |\,f4\,| / f < 0.56$

5   where

6   f1 is the focal length of said first lens component,

7   f2 is the focal length of said second lens component,

8   f4 is the focal length of said fourth lens component, and

9   f is the focal length of the image scanning lens.

1   17. The image scanning lens of claim 1, in combination with an image scanning device that

2   includes an image pickup device for receiving an image formed by the image scanning lens.

1   18. The image scanning lens of claim 2, in combination with an image scanning device that

2   includes an image pickup device for receiving an image formed by the image scanning lens.

1   19. The image scanning lens of claim 3, in combination with an image scanning device that

2   includes an image pickup device for receiving an image formed by the image scanning lens.

1   20. The image scanning lens of claim 4, in combination with an image scanning device that

2   includes an image pickup device for receiving an image formed by the image scanning lens.